

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 051436WO/H/s	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/PEA/416
International application No. PCT/US2004/023625	International filing date (day/month/year) 22.07.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.08.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01R13/658, H01R13/646, H01R9/03			

Applicant
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 4 sheets, as follows:
 - sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28.06.2005	Date of completion of this report 01.09.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Salojärvi, K Telephone No. +31 70 340-4036



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements* of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

Description, Pages

1-11 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-19 filed with the demand

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages
- the claims, Nos.
- the drawings, sheets/figs
- the sequence listing (specify):
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify):

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- the description, pages
- the claims, Nos.
- the drawings, sheets/figs
- the sequence listing (specify):
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	2-19
	No:	Claims	1
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-19
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-19
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

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Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: EP-A-0 311 041
- D2: EP-A-0 308 092
- D3: US-B1-6 210 230

- 2 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
- 2.1 The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A connector shell for a multiple wire cable assembly having multiple ground conductors and signal conductors, the connector shell comprising:

- a housing having a ground potential (implicitly disclosed in col. 3 lines 3-16);
- a multitude of contact elements arranged in a longitudinal array, the contact elements being provided for making electrical contact to contact elements of a mating connector and comprising:
 - (I) grounding contact elements for connecting to the ground conductors of cables of the multiple wire cable assembly; and
 - (ii) signal contact elements for connecting to the signal conductors of the cables of multiple wire cable assembly;
- a longitudinal ground plate extending along and in the longitudinal direction of the array of the contact elements, the grounding plate having two lateral edges at least one of which is provided for electrical connection to the ground potential of the housing;
- wherein the grounding plate comprises through holes having the grounding

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contact elements extending therethrough,

- wherein at the through holes the grounding contact elements are electrically connected to the grounding plate and frictionally engage within the throughholes (16); and
- wherein the grounding contact elements are capable for connecting directly to the ground conductors of the cables or directly to terminal connector of the cables.

2.1.1 Additionally it is to be noted that in the description on page 5 lines 2-5 the frictional engagement of grounding pins to the grounding plate is particularly described as being known to those skilled in the art.

2.2 Consequently, the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT regarding novelty are not fulfilled.

3 Dependent claims 2-19 do not appear to contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step, see documents D1-D3 cited in the search report:

Claims 2-8: see D1, Fig. 2

Claim 9: see D3, Fig. 1

Claims 10-12: see D1, Fig. 2

Claims 13-15: see D1, col. 4 lines 32-34

Claims 18-19: see D1, Abstract.

4 The invention relates to a connector shell for a multiple wire cable assembly. Consequently, it is obvious that the invention has industrial applicability and the requirements of Article 33(4) PCT are fulfilled.